

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the very thorough office action. Pursuant to that office action, Claim 5 has been cancelled and Claims 1, 6, 8 and 11 amended to more definitely set forth the invention and obviate the rejection. For example, independent Claims 1, 8 and 11 have been amended to require that the cover member is "made of water-impermeable material". Support for this amendment can be found in the Specification on page 17, lines 8-10. Additionally, the dependency of Claim 6 has been changed from Claim 5 to Claim 1 since Claim 5 has been cancelled.

Further, Claims 1, 8 and 11 have been amended to require that the cover member seals the insulating layer formed on the outer circumferential portion of the molding portion in a separable manner to thereby allow the conductive layer disposed in the molding portion to be kept in a sealed state. The present inventors found that the connection of an electrode portion and an electric current output portion can easily be connected with a good operational property, drug stability can be guaranteed owing to the high sealing property of conductive layers, and further excellent economical properties and safety can be provided by the electrode structure of the present invention. Support for the requirement relating to sealing of the conductive layer is found in the Specification on page 7, lines 6-15, and on page 25, lines 8-13. The present amendment is deemed not to introduce new matter. Claims 1-4 and 6-17 are in the application.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kyo, et al. (WO96/10439).

The Kyo, et al. reference, although concerned with an iontophoresis device, fails to set forth an electrode structure for an iontophoresis device as now called for in the claims herein. For

example, as pointed out above, the independent claims in this case now require that the cover member is made of a water-impermeable material for covering the conductive layer and the insulating layer (see Claim 1). In this connection independent Claim 8 requires that the cover member is made of a water-impermeable material for sealing the insulating layer formed on the flange portion in a separable manner to allow the conductive layer disposed in the molding portion be kept in a sealed state. Also, independent Claim 11 has been amended to require that the cover member made of water-impermeable material is supplied to a substrate film to provide sealing between the insulating layer positioned in the outer circumferential portion, to allow the conductive layer disposed in the molding portion be kept in a sealed state.

It is respectfully submitted that these features, which are nowhere disclosed in Kyo, et al., clearly patentably distinguish the claims of the present application from the disclosure of Kyo, et al. For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Kyo, et al. neither anticipates nor renders unpatentably obvious the subject matter now called for in the claims herein. Consequently, the Examiner would be justified in no longer maintaining the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is accordingly respectfully requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 3, 7 and 11-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kyo, et al. The amendment of the claims of the present application are believed to patentably distinguish from Kyo et al. for the reasons discussed above. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that there is no disclosure whatever in Kyo, et al. of the method of producing electrode structure for an iontophoresis device as now called for in the claims herein. For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner would be warranted in no

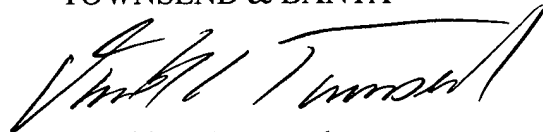
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longer maintaining this rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is accordingly respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and early action and allowance thereof is accordingly respectfully requested. In the event there is any reason why the application cannot be allowed at the present time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the number listed below to resolve any problems.

Respectfully submitted

TOWNSEND & BANTA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald E. Townsend', written in a cursive style.

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Date: July 26, 2004

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Amendment and Transmittal in Docket No. MUR-031-USA-PCT, Serial No. 09/807,832 filed November 13, 2001, was deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage prepaid as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

On July 26, 2004

Donald E. Townsend

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Donald E. Townsend", is written over a horizontal line.